

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 6/03/2014
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Spencer Booker, Julianne Vanderhoop

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Elise LeBovit, Jim Pickman, Beverly Wright, Gazette Reporter Remy Tumin, and County Manager Martina Thornton

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-1st on the agenda under Old Business was a review of minutes from 5/20

Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from May 20, 2014. Juli seconded.

The Board voted 3 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-The 1st agenda item was a meeting with Dukes County Manager Martina Thornton and her organization's proposal to acquire the recently vacant VNA building for the MV Center for Living. She said the acquisition will allow the Center for Living to have additional space plus rental by the county to help offset costs. She said the county would need special legislation as well to be able to bond the project which she thinks will take 6 months. She said the building is on Holmes Hole Road.

-There was discussion about VTA provide service for seniors to the facility. If the MV Center had the facility, they could increase their operation from 4 days to 5. The additional space will also help them expand in the future, which is part of the business plan. For the Center for Living. She said the towns could eventually help pay down the bond in a 50 – 50 pay out formula but the towns would have to discuss how each municipality would cover the acquisition and renovation costs. She said the all island selectmen will meet June 12th to discuss the financial arrangements. The purchase price is \$1.55 million + \$.45 million in restoration costs.

There was discussion about the idea of sharing the cost based on the number of people in Aquinnah are currently using the Center for Living.

Spencer made a motion to support the County's pursuit of acquiring the VNA building. Juli seconded.

The Board voted 3-0 in favor. The motion passed.

-The meeting jumped over to Selectmen's Other Business so that Beverly and Jim could bring the Board up to speed on the negotiations that are now under way to have the MV Museum continue to manage the lighthouse once the town acquires it. Beverly said the Save the Gay Head Lighthouse full committee voted recently to support the drafting of a license agreement between the Town and MV Museum and to have a draft license included in the revision work being done with the National Park Service Application. Jim said that at present the Coast Guard has a license with the museum to manage the lighthouse and has had one since 1994. He spoke of the management plan that is being put together to define who will have oversight of the ongoing maintenance and operation of the lighthouse and also about the need to enter into a licensing agreement with the museum once the Town has taken over ownership from the Coast Guard. He said that there will be an oversight committee with various town, tribe and those who have a direct tie to the structure as members This committee will also have purview of the Homestead as well.

-Jim said that the agreement will have the Museum paying an annual fee + the possibility of additional revenue based on a formula reaching a threshold for gross revenues. He said the town will collect fees also for the newly created park space. He also said there will be a review of the licensing arrangement after three years and a 30 day cancelation notice. Jim said because of the time frame to revise the application, there needed to be a negotiation with the museum now to establish a draft of the licensing agreement to go back with the revisionary work being done for the NPS Application.

-There was discussion about the number of people the Museum hires to operate it during the summer and how those jobs that pay could go to Aquinnah residents.

-There was also discussion about having the web site having a job board for position openings within the Town. Elise also asked that the posting of agendas and meetings minutes for the Save the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee. Adam suggested that Tiffany (Smalley – GHL Committee Assistant), can probably help with the requested docs being added to the website.

-In Other Business, Beverly thanked everyone for coming out for retired Fire Chief Walter Delaney's departure from his home on Lighthouse Rd.

-In New Business, there was the request from the Boston Area Roadsters to have their annual parking and display of the vehicles at the Aquinnah Circle.

Spencer made a motion to approve the use of the Circle Saturday, June 14th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Juli seconded.

The Board voted 3-0 in favor. The motion passed.

-In New Business, Adam gave an update on the recent mishap that occurred with a tug barge hitting the rock jetty on the West Basin side of the channel entrance. He said the Harbormaster and Chilmark officials are following up with the Coast Guard and the insurance involved to fix the jetty.

-In Other Business, The Board went through 3 reserve fund transfers for accounts that needed additional funds to pay a small interest note, the shared cost of the bathymetric survey done for the Menemsha Pond Channel dredging and unforeseen repairs to the Town's Palmer Car.

-In Other Business, Jim read the letter request from Tom Murphy to have the 11th annual 4th of July Parade once again go down Old South Road and finishing at Moshop's trail beach.

The Board, by consensus approved the request.

-In Other Business, Jim read a letter from Carlos Montoya requesting to become the town representative to the Land Bank. The Board agreed that the appointment will be taken up with all the other appointments scheduled for the June 17th meeting.

-Under Other Business, Spencer asked about a recent distress call for two people kayaking on Squibnocket Pond Simon said with there being no public place to launch West Tisbury's rescue boat into Squibby Pond, the Kennedy Red Gate property was the eventual location for the launch and in fact the kayakers were fine. Going forward, he said the use of the private property will be continued for getting to the pond.

-There was discussion about the public access to Squibnocket through the Sherriff's Meadow Easement also being available for emergency vehicles only so that fire/rescue had more options than using private property.

-Simon also reported about programs to acquire a water jet ski (for rescue) in a corporate loan scenario that wouldn't cost the town other than insurance. After 3 years it can be traded in or bought at a deep discount. He said that the device would be very effective in these types of situations. There was discussion about the different options other than a jet ski for rescue that wouldn't be so noisy and/or ostentatious. Simon reported that other boats, such as a zodiac, are not rated for rescue. He proposed working on having keys in lock boxes at certain private property locations.

-In Other Business, Spencer gave an update on the recent public safety building committee meeting and the question he has on motion to create the committee. Spencer read the minutes of the March 18th BOS meeting that created the committee as a Capital Expenditure Committee. Spencer said if the name of the committee is capital expenditure, it should include more than just putting together a plan to build a new public safety building on the town campus.

Spencer made a motion to create the committee to be called the “Town Campus Planning Committee”, Jim Seconded.

In the discussion, Simon said there is still a need to have a capital expenditure committee as well so that big spending items are planned out and not hit up to the town all at once.

-There was discussion about the campus including the playground and the area behind the town hall for community housing. A playground committee/group already exists with several town residents on it.

The Board voted 3 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Board members talked about the need to still have a capital expenditures committee and to appeal to the community to get involved.

-In Other Business, Jim asked for an update on grading of Old South Rd. Adam reported that he had sent a letter to the abutters involved. Jim asked Adam that a certified letter be sent as well. Adam said he'd take care of it.

Simon reported that there was a thank you letter from West Tisbury for Aquinnah's aide in a recent brush fire.

-Adam said he had a letter going to the Aquinnah/Gay Head Community Association thanking them for their \$1K contribution to the Town's Community Programs.

-Jim asked if there was anything else to discuss. Hearing none...

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.